

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05363 122106Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 /072 W
-----065695 130328Z /75

R 121900Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7227
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS KINGSTON 5363

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: MANLEY DRAWS MORE FIRE ON PRESS FREEDOM ISSUE

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 5345

1. JAMAICAN PRESS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO EDITORIALS IN TRINIDAD'S GUARDIAN AND EXPRESS CONDEMNING PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S HANDLING OF HIS DISPUTE WITH JAMAICA'S DAILY GLEANER. (REPORTED REFTEL). DAILY GLEANER CARRIES BANNER HEADLINE SEPT. 10 STATING "TRINIDAD PRESS LASHES MANLEY OVER GLEANER." BOTH PAPERS QUOTE GUARDIAN EDITORIAL WHICH STATES THAT "IF THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT SUCCEEDS IN STRANGLING THE GLEANER, THE NEXT VICTIM WILL BE THE WHOLE NATION ITSELF." THE EXPRESS IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "IF PUBLIC FUNDS ARE TO BE DENIED THE GLEANER, THE NEXT OBVIOUS STEP IS THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO TAKE IT OVER."
2. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) CONFERENCE SEPT. 11, PRIME MINISTER MANLEY DENIED THAT HE HAD EVER ATTACKED FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. MANLEY SAID THAT HIS STATEMENTS, WHICH HAD BEEN IN DEFENSE OF PRESS FREEDOMS, HAD BEEN TWISTED BY REACTIONARY FORCES TRYING TO CONFUSE.

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3. ADDING TO THE PROBLEM WAS AN INCIDENT SEPT. 11 AT THE PNP PARTY CONFERENCE IN WHICH GLEANER COLUMNIST JOHN HEARNS WAS BEATEN BY A GROUP OF "PEOPLE WHO ACCUSED HIM OF WRITING DIRTY ARTICLES IN THE GLEANER." HEARNE IS A LONG-TIME PNP SUPPORTER WHO IN RECENT MONTHS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT.

HE ATTENDED THE SEPT. 6 PNP RALLY IN WHICH MANLEY ISSUED
HIS IMPLICIT THREAT TO THE GLEANER AND AT THAT RALLY HE
WAS FORCED TO LEAVE UNDER THREAT OF BODILY HARM.
AT THE SEPT. 11 PNP MEETING, HEARNE WAS CUT UNDER THE EYE
AND BADLY BRUISED BEFORE BEING RESCUED BY POLICE. PRIME
MINISTER MANLEY ISSUED A STATEMENT DEPLORING THE ATTACK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, POLITICAL FREEDOM, NEWSPAPERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINGST05363
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770330-1090
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770975/aaaaclej.tel
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TAGS: PINT, SOPN, SHUM, JM, DAILY GLEANER, (MANLEY, MICHAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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